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## PROCEEDINGS AND PAPERS.

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QUARTERLY GENERAL MEETING, held at the Society's Apartments, William-street, Kilkenny, on Wednesday, October 5th, 1864.

The VERY REV. THE DEAN OF OSSORY, President of the Society, in the Chair.

The following new Members were elected :—

Sir Edward Coursy, Bart., Arbourfield, Reading, Berks ; and Francis A. Leigh, Esq., J.P., Rosegarland, Foulksmills, county of Wexford : proposed by Herbert F. Hore, Esq.

Robert Staples, Esq., J.P., Dunmore, Durrow, Queen's County : proposed by the Very Rev. the Dean of Ossory.

Laurence Waldron, Esq., M. P., 28, Rutland-square, West, Dublin ; Robert Ryan, Esq., J. P., Templemungret, Limerick ; Rev. Patrick Power, R. C. C., Carrick-on-Suir ; and John Thomas Mac Sheehy, Esq., Shannon Lawn, Limerick : proposed by Maurice Lenihan, Esq.

Edward de la Poer, Esq., Gurteen, Kilsheelan, Clonmel : proposed by Thomas Lalor, Esq., D. L.

Bernard E. Fitzpatrick, Esq., Lisduff, Errill, Templemore ; Thomas Elliott, Esq., J. P., Rathcurby, Kilmacow, Waterford ; and the Rev. P. R. Young, R. C. C., Clonmacnoise, Athlone : proposed by the Rev. James Graves.

Rev. Arthur Eden, Ticehurst, Hurst Green, Sussex : proposed by the Rev. John Lymberry.

William Hague, Esq., Architect, 175, Great Brunswick-street, Dublin : proposed by David Fielding Jones, Esq.

Henry Brewster, Esq., C. E., County Surveyor, Castlebar : proposed by Peter Burtchaell, Esq.

Robert Cochrane, Esq., C. E. Banbridge : proposed by R. Linn, Esq.

Robert Pape, Esq., Litchfield : proposed by A. G. 'Geoghegan, Esq.

Rev. P. V. Skelly, O. P., the Black Abbey, Kilkenny: proposed by J. G. A. Prim, Esq.

Mr. Michael Brophy, Parliament-street, Kilkenny: proposed by Mr. J. Hogan.

The Rev. James Graves reported that the Memorial to the Lords of the Treasury, praying that they would cause the Records of Ireland to be collected into a safe repository and placed under the care of competent officers, which had been adopted at the January meeting, being duly signed by the President and Committee, was presented by Colonel Dunne, M. P. He (Mr. Graves) had since received a letter from Colonel Dunne, stating that Mr. G. A. Hamilton had communicated to him the reply of their Lordships, to the effect that "any suggestion from the Kilkenny Archæological Society was sure to receive the consideration of the Treasury."

Mr. Graves said, that although the injury done to the sculptures at Clonmacnoise had been most lamentable, yet that the steps taken by the Society to enforce the statute passed for the preservation of public monuments had been productive of most beneficial results. Not only had it been made publicly known that such vandalism could not be committed with impunity, but the attention of the Irish Government having been called to the subject, the following most important order has been issued to the Constabulary Force throughout the country:—

"INJURY TO PUBLIC MONUMENTS.

"The practice of injuring and defacing public monuments having been brought under the notice of the Government, it is most desirable that the attention of the Force shall be called to the provisions of the 24th and 25th Vict., cap. 97, and section 39. It is to be understood, therefore, that it is the duty of the Constabulary to interfere for the protection of all such monuments, and to use their best endeavours to bring to justice the parties guilty of such misdemeanor.

"H. J. BROWNRIGG.

*"Constabulary Office, Dublin,  
7th September, 1864."*

It now remained for the public to aid the officials in carrying out this law, by reporting to the police every case of wanton injury to any sculptured monument, ancient or modern, whether in the old churchyards or elsewhere exposed to public view, in order that the law might be put in force. The members of the Society, Mr. Graves added, were all aware of the most praiseworthy exertions of their fellow-member, Mr. T. L. Cooke, Sessional Crown Prosecutor for the King's County, in the matter of the Clonmacnoise outrage. Without his valuable aid the good results already obtained would never have been realized. He (Mr. Graves) therefore thought all would agree

with him that some special mark of the Society's appreciation of Mr. Cooke's services ought to be bestowed. He would therefore propose that that gentleman be elected an Honorary Member, and that the thanks of the Society be presented to him.

Mr. Prim had the greatest pleasure in seconding the resolution. The proposition passed unanimously.

A letter from the Rev. Charles A. Vignoles, Rector of Clonmacnoise, was read, stating that the trial of the person charged with the wanton injury of sculptures at Clonmacnoise had resulted in a disagreement of the jury. The Crown had prosecuted. The following are portions of the charges of the presiding judge to the grand jury and petty jury, and a speech of counsel :—

“KING'S COUNTY SUMMER ASSIZES, 1864.

*“Before the Lord Chief Justice.*

“Crown Court, Monday, July 11.—His Lordship delivered his charge to the Grand Jury, as follows:—

“‘Mr. Foreman, and Gentlemen of the Grand Jury, . . . One other matter, Gentlemen, just comes under my notice, involving the application of a law which must be new to you, for even I have no experience of its having been hitherto put in force; I mean the destruction within the limits of this county of some ancient monuments of great interest—interest not only to the natives of the place, but of the whole country. It appeared that some ancient monuments, or works of art, which were erected in a churchyard, were wantonly injured. It is charged that some monuments erected at the memorable Seven Churches have been defaced. Such monuments were of national importance in various respects. They were sometimes evidence as to the times of death, names, and ownership of land, and also as to titles of honour found upon these ancient monuments. It is also impossible to over-estimate their importance as showing the character of the nation in those early times. These monuments show the high degree of civilization attained by the people of this country at the time. The more ancient those monuments, the more interesting. The law provides for the preservation of all works of art, and particularly all works of art, monuments, or stones deposited in sacred places. These monuments, as I have said, attest the antiquity and civilization of the country, and they could not be defaced without the interposition of the law. It was a lapse—a going back again to barbarity on the part of the nation, if they were to be defaced. But it would be found that the laws were armed with powers for such an occasion. Bills will be sent up for your consideration against a party charged with the wilful destruction of those monuments or works of art; and it will be your duty, Gentlemen, if the facts be proved, to find true bills; and not to enter into any discussion as to whether the monuments defaced were within the words of the act, as that will be a matter for the court to decide; but if any legal points arise, I shall be happy to render assistance.’

“When the evidence for the defence had been concluded, Mr. Ball, Q. C., the counsel especially retained by the Kilkenny and South-East of

Ireland Archæological Society to watch the trial and aid the Crown prosecutors, replied—

“‘This is a case, Gentlemen, demanding your most serious consideration. I shall call to your minds but a few matters in connexion with the subject, and those are matters which are beyond all manner of doubt. It is unquestioned that an injury has been done to those memorable ruins. The evidence to prove that has been amply sufficient. The next established fact is, that the injuries complained of were done on the day a large party went from Birr to this place. It has been proved by the police constable that the injury was not done on the morning of the day the party from Birr were there. He gives also a circumstantial reason for knowing it was not done, as the round tower was pointed out to him by the Rev. Mr. Vignoles as about to be repaired by the Kilkenny Archæological Society, under the direction of the Rev. James Graves. That was in the early part of the day. The injury was done to a part over two feet from the ground, and therefore likely to attract the notice of anybody. This was at half-past two o’clock, as deposed to by the policeman. Now, it has been also proved that this injury had been done at half-past four o’clock. The caretaker has sworn to its being done at that time. I have thus, Gentlemen, brought this one particular count of the indictment within the space between half-past two and a quarter to four o’clock. All this has been matter of proof. And that it was on the 22nd of May, the day on which the offence is alleged to have been committed. In fact, this has not been denied in the defence. It is more than probable that the other injuries deposed to were done at the same time and by the same stone which left its mark on this arch, but I shall not trouble you to inquire. It is not necessary. It has been proved that this particular injury was done on this particular day, and within this particular time. This has been established by testimony not to be shaken. The next important fact, which is also a fact beyond question, is that the two children were there that day. There has been nothing urged to lead you to believe that they were not there. It was a likely place for them to be. There is no denial that they were there. It has been insinuated that the father of the boy could prove that he was not there, but he was not produced. We are told that his father has turned against him, but he is not produced. He will not appear. As I have said, it has been proved to demonstration that this act must have been done on that day. There were a number of persons there that day. The prisoner was never seen by either of the witnesses before. Why, then, Gentlemen, was this man accused? I shall tell you. The little boy gives a description of the person he saw committing the damage. The description was so accurate that the police, seventeen miles away, laid their hands on the man, and had him summoned on the mere description given by this child. If he had not seen the prisoner doing this damage, would he have so accurately described him—would he have given similar testimony? No: it was because his attention was drawn to the man by the acts which he saw him doing, which fixed the man in his mind, which enabled him to identify him fully and clearly on every occasion. And now, Gentlemen, give me leave to ask, how are we to reconcile that fact with the prisoner’s innocence—the witness once seeing a man and describing him, and then com-

ing seventeen miles and identifying him? It is perfectly impossible, I do not care how it may be sought to be controverted. By what miracle did that boy so describe that man? That is the question for the jury. But there was a second person who saw the man, and she also described him, but did not know his name. Neither of them ever saw the man before that day; and I ask again, by what miracle are they able to identify the man? What plan between them would account for it? None, Gentlemen; for they separately identified the prisoner—a fact which seals and confirms their previous testimony. There are limits, Gentlemen, to human abilities, and I say that it is not in the power of any one much older than the witnesses to manufacture such a case. It is perfectly impossible. By what powers could they describe a man seventeen miles away, and afterwards identify him?

“ You are told, Gentlemen, that the members of this Young Men’s Society were there on this day when this act was done. So much appears from the evidence. The children were there that day. It was done at a time when it is proved that the party from Birr were in the churchyard. It was done between half-past two and a quarter past four. If it was not done by the prisoner, who did it? If it was done by another of the party, would it not be proved as easily? If it was a falsehood on the part of those two witnesses, why was not Moran or Quigley<sup>1</sup> accused or arrested, from the description which had been given? The evidence given by the witnesses for the defence was such as might have been calculated upon. It has been urged in this case the veneration in which those ancient monuments are held, that the party of which the prisoner at the bar was one were Roman Catholics, that there was nobody there that day but Roman Catholics. That has been made a great argument. It has been pressed that it could not be done by the prisoner, who is a Roman Catholic; that it was impossible. But in the face of that they must consider that it was done while they were there. That is extraordinary; and I shall leave you, Gentlemen, to reconcile the two circumstances. Whether it was want of thought, want of feeling at the time, it is not for you to consider. The injuries were done to this building at this time, that is, between half-past two and a quarter to four o’clock. It is most circumstantially proved to have been done with a red stone, which was found near the place, and the marks of which appeared on the monuments. If you had to deal with a question of larceny, or of honesty between parties, evidence of character might have been of value. As for the interest felt in the monuments, that, as well as the propriety of the conduct of the party, is beside the question you have to try. It is not urged, Gentlemen, that a bad character would travel seventeen miles to destroy these stones. But it is curious that they remained unmolested for so many years by the natives of that particular place; that the people of Clonmacnoise should select a day when a party from a town seventeen miles away went there, to deface those monuments. What, Gentlemen, is the history of the case? On the 22nd of May the party from Birr were at Clonmacnoise, and on the 2nd of July the witnesses

<sup>1</sup> “ Persons who were of the party, and gave evidence for the defence.

proved their previous description by identifying the prisoner at petty sessions when for the first time after the outrage they had seen him. I ask you, Gentlemen, to let that testimony be impressed upon your minds. It will weigh against any general impression that he could not have done it. If there be any error in the case, it is not too much to expect that the defence would have been able to sweep away that error. It is sought to make you believe, Gentlemen, that during the four hours of that day the prisoner at the bar was in the sight of several of those who were there, that he never left their sides. That is the case. I do not, Gentlemen, impugn the *bona fides* of those witnesses. But it is beyond the capacity of the human mind to think that without any foregone conclusion they would watch the prisoner, or that they could give a tangible, feasible account of him for the whole of that day—such an account as the law would demand. But, in truth, the admirable evidence of the two children compels one to yield assent to every word of their evidence. It is impossible that they could have described the matter as they have done without having seen the injuries done. It is useless for me to call your attention to the minuteness and clearness with which every incident of the transaction is detailed. The slight disagreement between the boy and girl in the matter of the stile rather goes to prove the truthfulness of their story than to cast any doubt upon it; for we often find truthful narratives, when given by different parties, to contain some discrepancy, thereby showing clearly that there was no collusion between them. I shall, in conclusion, again draw your attention to the fact of the description given by the witnesses, and their subsequent recognition of the prisoner. Nothing short of a miracle could account for their statements being false, and their actions and conduct at petty sessions and in this court.’

“The Lord Chief Justice charged the petty jury as follows:—

“There are few cases that can be said to be more particularly and unexceptionably jury cases than the present. It is a question in which the evidence given must be tried by the test of a jury, whose duty it will be on their consciences and oaths to testify as to the guilt of the prisoner, or otherwise. That is the duty that now, Gentlemen, remains with you to discharge. I have no doubt, from the careful attention you have given to the case, it will have fair and full consideration. I shall call your attention to two great principles of law laid down for the protection of the subjects of the Crown. The first great principle of the law is one on which your verdict must rest; in fact, you could not give a verdict without a consideration of this principle; and I wish you to have it in your mind in considering what I am about to say to you. The first great principle of the law, then, is that every man is considered innocent till it has been proved to the satisfaction of a jury that he is guilty. Unless his guilt is proved by satisfactory evidence, the prisoner in the dock is reckoned quite innocent, although he has stood there. He is as free from the operation of the law as if he stood on the table. To the other principle of law I shall now call your attention. The next principle, gentlemen, is the binding character of testimony upon oath. You are bound to believe sworn testimony. Unless there be some reason for attributing corruption or mistake, an oath is binding on you to believe. You cannot

doubt such testimony upon mere assumption. The evidence upon oath must stand. If you are of opinion that the witnesses who were first called were guilty of corruptly, or falsely, or through mistake giving their evidence, it is a matter for your attention. But you have sworn testimony, which affords you a standing-ground. There is no doubt that injury has been done, and you can find on any one of the counts of the indictment. It is not necessary that you shall find upon every one. There is no doubt that a particular injury was done the day the party was there (at Clonmacnoise) from Birr. There is no question about its having been then done. You may rest upon that fact. It is also an all-important fact that the boy was there that day. It was also deposed that the boy saw the person who did the injuries. It was not enough to say that he saw it done by some one, but he said he saw it done by a person from Birr. It will be for you to say whether he could forge the evidence of that story, and describe the party who did it so distinctly. Unless you believe that this evidence was given falsely, you are bound to yield your confidence to it. The evidence, too, is not attended by any ground for suspicion, only, it may be alleged, mistake. There is no evidence imputing corruption. Two witnesses were examined, a boy and a girl—and I shall say a word as to their manner of giving their testimony. The boy gave his evidence with admirable firmness and decision, and with great distinctness, which the learned counsel on the opposite side was not able to shake. The little girl's evidence was not so decided, not so firm, not so distinct, but still her evidence was unshaken. But when you come to consider two witnesses, of whom no motive has been suggested that they could speak other than the truth, you will consider both these young persons without any apparent motive describing the prisoner at the bar so that the policeman was able to identify him. They first describe him, and afterwards identify him. If they had made any mistake in the first description, they had an opportunity of rectifying it when called on to identify him in the court at petty sessions. If, again, there had been any mistake there, they had an opportunity now of counteracting it. But now, with all the solemnity attending the administration of justice, both in the most positive manner identify the prisoner as the man who committed the injuries. As to the contradiction between the two witnesses, it will be for you to say whether you find any difficulty in that. If they were framing a story, then there was no reason why they should not have pitched upon a man who was not there at all, and whose innocence could be most clearly proved; and then what was the motive for describing and identifying the prisoner? Such a course suggested a most unimaginable conspiracy. This will be matter for your consideration, for your own consciences, for your own judgment. You are bound, if you feel a doubt—a reasonable doubt—to give the prisoner the benefit of it. Such is the principle of the law, such the protection afforded to every man. I will now leave the case in your hands.’ ”

The following presentations were received, and thanks voted to the donors:—

By the Author: “The Earls of Kildare and their Ancestors:



from 1057 to 1773," 2nd Edition, with "Addenda," 2 vols. By the Marquis of Kildare.

By the Cambrian Archæological Association: "*Archæologia Cambrensis*," third series, No. 40.

By the Cambridge Antiquarian Society: their "Report and Communications," No. 14, completing Second Volume.

By the Cambrian Institute: "*The Cambrian Journal*" for September, 1863.

By the Publisher: "*The Gentleman's Magazine*" for May, June, July, August, September and October, 1864.

By the Publisher: "*The Builder*," Nos. 1105-1130, inclusive.

By R. Malcomson, Esq. Hon. Local Secretary, Carlow: a large and valuable collection of coins and antiquities, comprising the following articles:—Seven bronze celts, of which four were plain, two with stop-ridge and side-flanges, and one socketed, and with side-loop, all of which he had purchased from dealers in old metal in that county—several of these objects were of rare type; two flint arrow-heads, from the Antrim coast—a curious bronze boat-shaped vessel,  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches long, with a bronze spoon, five inches in length—the former being for the purpose of holding incense, the accompanying spoon being used to place the necessary portion on the thurible, both the "*navicula*" and spoon were devoid of ornament, but the former was very classical in shape—they were probably of foreign make, and of considerable antiquity, and they were purchased by a watchmaker from a man who stated that he found them in the Queen's County, not far from Carlow, but would give no further information about them; an unpublished token, struck in 1667, by William Joy, of Waterford, of which city that person was sheriff in 1670; a silver groat of Edward IV., found at Staples-town, county of Carlow; another groat of the same type; one also of Henry VIII., half face; and a rudely-struck Spanish dollar.

By Mr. Malcomson, on behalf of Mr. Alexander John Humfrey, Ardristan: a finely-polished stone celt; and of Harman H. Cooper, Esq.: four silver coins, found at Shrute Castle, consisting of a penny of one of the early Edwards, a groat of Philip and Mary, and two groats of Elizabeth.

By the Very Rev. the Dean of Ossory, on the part of the Dean and Chapter of St. Canice, the following antiquities, recently found in St. Canice's Cathedral, in the course of removing the modern fittings of the choir, and opening the arches: three iron keys, one 8 inches long, the second  $4\frac{3}{4}$ , and the third  $4\frac{1}{2}$ , the bows of all formed alike, but the wards of various patterns; a very small clay tobacco pipe, about the age of Charles II.; an iron stamp, bearing the figure 1, and a number of encaustic flooring-tiles, one of which had the pattern inlaid in white clay.

Mr. Graves observed that the largest of the keys at all events

was as old as the fourteenth century, as it was found near the bottom of a wall which had been erected about the year 1360, across the arch in the north wall of the choir.

By J. G. Robertson, Esq.: a token struck by Anthony Hall, in Carrickfergus, bearing for a device a town gate, and on the obverse 1D., with the letters A. H. Mr. Robertson also exhibited four flint arrow-heads, and a curious French jetton.

By Mrs. Wade, St. Canice's Cottage, through the Dean of Ossory: a penny of one of the early Edwards; Mrs. Wade also exhibited a number of Mexican coins.

By E. B. Taylor, Esq., Gowran: a shilling of Queen Anne.

By Mr. John Dunne, Garryricken: a brass Dutch tobacco box, intrusted to him for the purpose by Mr. Peter Creagh, late of the Killamory Constabulary, but who has since emigrated to Australia, in the possession of whose wife's family the box had long been, but was originally brought from the East Indies. It is curious that it is exactly of the same type as the Dutch tobacco-boxes carried into this country by the troopers of William III., many of which have been brought under the notice of the Society. Mr. Dunne also presented, on the part of Mr. Joseph Lawrence, of Poulacapple, a horn, discovered last summer in a turbary in the Marquis of Ormonde's bog, at Poulacapple, at a depth of fourteen feet below the surface. The length of the horn now presented was six inches.

The Rev. James Graves said that the finding of the actual horn, if it belonged to the extinct short-horn breed of Ireland, was curious; the skull and core of the horns often occur.

By Mr. Richard Preston, of Kilkenny: a carved stone, found in the walls of a cabin which was undergoing rebuilding, near the Black Abbey. It represented the Virgin and infant Saviour, and had evidently formed part of the side support of an altar tomb of the sixteenth century.

By Mr. H. O'Coulohan, Piltown: a large unfinished distaff-weight, the central orifice marked out for boring, but left unfinished. It was found by a man earthing potatoes in a field adjoining a moat, at Rogerstown, not far from Piltown.

Dr. Long, Arthurstown, sent for exhibition, through the Rev. James Graves, a brass Dutch tobacco box, obtained by him from a poor woman, who said her father or grandfather had been a sailor, and brought it from abroad. The box was covered with emblematic carvings, amongst which seemed to be a representation of the Good Samaritan. The ornamentations are more elaborate than usual on the Dutch boxes which have come under the notice of the Society.

Mr. Graves, with reference to the kitchen midden at Clare Island, Bannow, county of Wexford, the discovery of which by the Rev. John Lymbery had been brought before the last meeting, reported the results of an investigation since made by Mr. Lymbery

and the Rev. Mr. Eden. A trench had been cut through the heap, and a large mass of bones examined, but no implements or ornaments of iron or bronze had been discovered. The fragments of a coarse earthen vessel were found amongst the bones of which principally the deposit was formed. Dr. Boxwell, of Wexford, to whom some of the latter were shown, declared them to be principally the bones of deer, with some of oxen and swine. A horn core of the *Bos longifrons* was amongst the specimens forwarded by Mr. Lymbery, who also sent the fragments of the fictile vessel. It was intimated that a large portion of the refuse heap still remained unexamined.

Mr. Prim laid before the meeting a letter from Mr. F. Spong, Carlow, with reference to the Ardnahue kitchen midden, the particulars of the discovery made in which were brought under notice at the July meeting by Mr. Malcomson. Mr. Spong stated, that with regard to the iron implements and comb exhibited along with the stone implements found at Ardnahue, he did not consider they were antiques. The upper surface of the field in which the deposits were found had been, some sixteen or eighteen years since, formed of earth brought thither by the former tenant of the land, Mr. Henry Fitzmaurice, to level it; and Mr. Fitzmaurice had carted out a large quantity of manure from the Carlow shambles, containing blood, offal, &c. The iron hook and the comb, having been found near the surface were, no doubt, (Mr. Spong considered) brought there in this manure, and therefore had no connexion with the other implements found; nor could they form any criterion as to the age of the kitchen midden. Mr. Prim said that he gave this statement of Mr. Spong's, as it was right that every doubtful point should be elucidated; but he should say from himself that the comb, wherever it had come from, was a veritable antique, and belonged to the primæval period. As Mr. Malcomson was now present, he could, perhaps, afford them further information.

Mr. Malcomson observed that Mr. Shaw, the proprietor of the land, had handed him both the comb and iron hook to lay before the Society, giving him to understand that they had been turned up in connexion with the other antiques, concerning which no question was raised. As to the comb, as Mr. Prim had stated, its antiquity was undoubted, and it could not well have come from the Carlow shambles. The iron hook, Mr. Shaw told him, had been passed through a forge fire by the labourer who turned it up, before it came into his possession, so that, of course, it was not now possible to judge of its original appearance. So far as this hook was concerned, Mr. Spong might be right.

The Rev. John Lymbery reported that the wall which surrounds the ancient church and burial-ground of Bannow having fallen a good deal, it became necessary to put it into thorough re-

pair. Some excavations having been made outside the burial-ground, in a south-westerly direction, not only were the thick slate slabs used in roofing discovered, but also the walls of solid, substantial houses. He saw the squared granite stones, forming the entrance to a house, in process of being removed; and a few yards to the west of the churchyard wall, was discovered a stone, a portion of which had been broken off and lost, but what remained showed a fragmentary inscription as follows:—

. . . . mes. collī. f3  
 . . . ence . builded . this  
 howse . in . the yeere . of  
 owre . lord . 1598 . and  
 marion . sinot . his . wife

which may be read: “[Ja]mes Collin fitz [Lawr]ence builded this howse in the yeere of owre Lord, 1598, and Marion Sinot, his wife.” This stone had been carried away to a farm-house a couple of miles off. It was eighteen inches in breadth. Mr. Lymbery sent an excellent photograph of the stone and inscription, executed by his brother, Captain Lymbery. This discovery was interesting, as showing that houses of considerable pretension were built in the now obliterated town of Bannow so late as the close of the sixteenth century.

Maurice Lenihan, Esq., Limerick, exhibited a most remarkable and important MS., being a book comprising, amongst other curious matters, the entries of the fees received by Dr. Arthure, of Limerick, during his professional career, extending from 1618 to 1660. He was a member of the same family which produced the Rev. Geoffry Arthure, Treasurer of the Cathedral of Limerick, whose carved monumental inscription has been already illustrated by Mr. Lenihan (see p. 116 *supra*); and evidently was a medical man of much eminence in his day, as was proved by the record of fees received from Archbishop Ussher, Ireton, Fleetwood, the wife of Henry Cromwell, and many other remarkable personages. Mr. Lenihan, at the request of the Members present, promised to lay before the Society, at an early meeting, a paper descriptive of the full contents of this extremely interesting manuscript.

A description of an artificial cave, examined by Edward Tippling, Esq., of Bellurgan Park, Dundalk, was forwarded through the Rev. G. H. Reade, as follows:—

“The cave is situated in the townland of Bellurgan, parish of Ballymascanlan, and barony of Lower Dundalk, county of Louth. It is altogether artificial, situated in a bank over the river; and there seems to have been almost a town of such constructions within a circuit of half a mile. There is also a large cromleac close at hand. One of the flags covering the

cave appearing bare of mould, it was taken up, when a passage was found, about four feet high, and three wide, inclining downwards in a direction parallel to the slope of the bank. After twenty-three feet it turns at a right angle to the left, or towards the river; and, continuing, thirteen feet six inches further, terminates, apparently built up square; but in the floor was seen a square hole, descending which, we find at a level about three feet lower, a continuation nineteen feet long, and in the same direction, which finally terminates in a circular space or chamber, both wider and higher than the passage leading to it. The cave is constructed throughout of water-worn boulders from two cwts. downwards, evidently taken from the bed of the adjacent river, covered with large coarse flags, some projecting on each side, supporting a third on top, others reaching over all, but no attempt at an arch. In the end wall, over the hole, was an orifice nine inches square, from which a narrow flue, neatly built, having the roof stones of the cave below for its floor, led straight out to the surface of the bank. Having by measurement ascertained the position of its outer end, we dug for and opened it; we could then see through it, and found it half filled with dry limestone gravel, apparently on purpose. The cave appears to have been first dug out, then built and roofed, and the gravel returned. The floor is the natural 'till,' and seemed undisturbed except in the terminal chambers and at the angle, which evidently were turned to the depth of a foot by some previous discoverer. The mould about the entrance was black and fine, and showed traces evidently of fires having been made there. By digging I found the cave had formerly extended further in an opposite direction, but had been opened, and the stones forming it levelled in. We found several pieces of bone in the mould around—two, like human hand or foot bones, were found along with the jawbone of a cow, in the air passage. There was no trace of fire or iron in the cave itself, or of any inscription. If I might venture a conjecture, I would say the cave is of high antiquity—from its small height and the arrangement of the roof, probably Celtic, and that its constructors used it for a hiding place for their property and themselves in time of danger, the air passage supplying them with air when the other end was closed; and that the huts in which they usually lived were situated over it, where the traces of fire are seen in the mould."

The following, accompanied by a drawing and rubbings, was received from Thomas O'Gorman, Esq. :—

"I beg leave to bring under your notice the existence of what is probably an Ogham inscription at Castlederg, county of Tyrone. On the side of a hill overlooking the town of Castlederg, and between a quarter and half a mile distant from it, stand the remains of one of those relics of remote antiquity now generally known as Cromleacs, which, from what I am about to lay before you, may possibly be worthy of the attention of archæologists.

"A few years ago this relic was perfect, and is said to have formed a very prominent object in the landscape, being, from its great height<sup>1</sup> and size, plainly seen from the town; but it is now, I am sorry to say, no longer seen from any distance, having been about two years since wantonly

<sup>1</sup> "Lewis's Topographical Dictionary" notes it as twelve feet high.

overturned by some barbarian, who first loosened the supporting or upright stones, next the slope of the hill, and then with levers forced the ponderous covering stone over on them. They gave way, and all sunk together to the ground; and a relic which had defied time and its accompanying accidents for many thousand years became in a moment a shapeless ruin.

"When the covering stone was displaced, the top of one of the undisturbed supporting stones on which it had rested so long became exposed to view, and it is to this particular stone I beg to call your attention. It formed of itself one end of the grave or chamber, and along the edge of the flat or horizontal face of it are a number of scores distinctly, and in some parts deeply cut. It immediately struck me, when looking at them a short a short time since, that these scores might possibly form an Ogham inscription, and if so be valuable, as tending to throw some certain light on the origin or uses of such monuments. I accordingly took a rubbing of them, and attempted a sketch of the stone on which they are, both of which I herewith beg to submit to you.

"It is to be remarked that not one of the scores is on the upright portion of the stone; all are on the flat part; neither is there any appearance of a medial line or 'fleasg;' the lines on the rubbing marked with a (?) appear to me as if they had been cut originally, and afterwards obliterated.

"I could learn nothing of this monument further than that a gentleman resident in the neighbourhood told me these scores were in existence when he was a child, and the structure complete; being on the sunny side of the hill, children used it as a play-house, and he then often saw them. The peasantry of the place know nothing about it; they are aware of the 'big stones' being there, but that is all. Of one thing I am sure, the scores are not natural marks on the stone—they were made by the hand of man—but whether they are Oghams or not, I leave to you, who are so well versed in such matters, to say."

The Rev. James Graves said, that, having submitted the rubbing forwarded by Mr. O'Gorman to Dean Graves, he had received a reply, stating that it was not sufficiently perfect to enable him to say decidedly whether it was an Ogham or not. Dean Graves stated that he did not know of any instance of the existence of an Ogham on the supporting or other stone connected with a cromleac, and suggested that a cast should be taken; as, if this were really an Ogham, it was a most important discovery.

The Rev. James Graves called attention to some ancient monumental sculptures still extant at Kells, in the county of Kilkenny. That the cloisters, graveyard, and church of that priory were formerly rich in sculptured memorials of the dead there could be little doubt; but these had for the most part perished. He was not aware of the existence there of more than five ancient monuments; and of these, one which he remembered to have seen complete, though broken into three parts, had since been rendered more imperfect by the loss of one of the fragments. This slab was coffin-shaped, bevelled on the edges, and bore a graceful floriated cross

of the Edwardian period, carved in relief. Its inscription, when first seen by him, was even then in part illegible; its letters were incised on the limestone, by the side of the stem of the cross, in Lombardic capitals, and read as follows:—

✠ hīc : iacet : ricardus : comerford : . . . .  
 . . . . ONDAM : PRIOR EXSTITIT ISTIUS DOMI :

which might be completed as follows:—

✠ hīc : iacet : ricardus : comerford : [qui  
 istius : conventus : q]ONDAM : PRIOR : EXSTITIT.

“Here lies Richard Comerford, who was formerly Prior of this convent.” The name of Comerford is found amongst those of the earliest Anglo-Norman settlers in the county of Kilkenny, and the Comerfords held the lands of Danganmore, in the immediate neighbourhood of Kells, down to the middle of the last century, when the property passed, through the female line, into the family of Langton (see Mr. Prim’s *Memoirs of the Langton Family*, p. 81, *supra*). That one of the Comerfords became Prior of Kells has not been before noticed;<sup>1</sup> and as the portion of the stone bearing the name was now lost, it was the more important that the copy of the inscription made by him (Mr. Graves) in November, 1840, should now be placed on record in the pages of their “*Journal*.” The remaining fragments of this slab were still to be seen in the graveyard of the Priory; and their date might be assigned to the commencement of the fourteenth century.

In the choir of the Priory Church, modernly built up in the north wall, was a monumental slab, exhibiting a portion of an incised cross, of a somewhat earlier date than Prior Comerford’s tomb: along its edge was deeply incised in Lombardic capitals the singular inscription:—

✠ hīc : iacet : willelmus : filius : hugonis : clerici . .

But the choir (now degraded into a common ball alley) contained a much more interesting slab, and one most probably of an earlier date. It was coffin-shaped, bevelled on the edge, and bore a rich floriated cross, cut in relief; and what rendered it still more interesting was the example it gave of the graceful shield of the period, charged with three chevrons. This slab measured six feet four inches. Unfortunately, there is no inscription to tell the name of the deceased, and as it was impossible to recover the tinctures, we cannot say whether the tomb was carved in commemoration of some member of the great family of De Clare, at this period lords of Kilkenny, who bore “or three chevrons gules;” or whether it must be assigned, which

<sup>1</sup> Archdall “*Monast. Hibn.*” p. 362, &c., mentions the acts of several priors of

this period, but does not give their names.

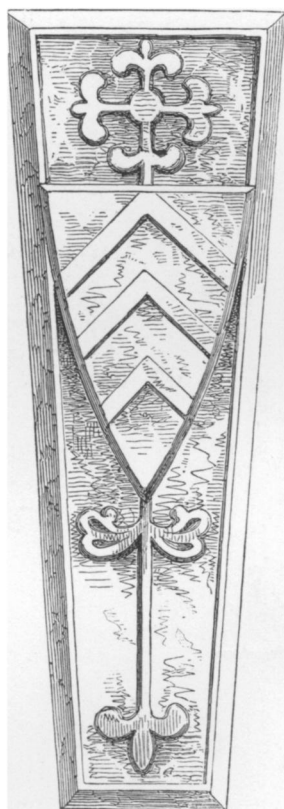


Fig. 1.



Fig. 2.

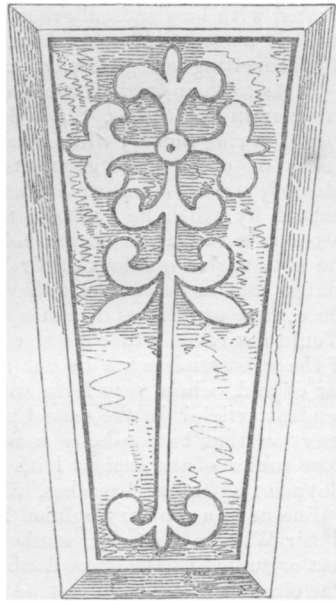


perhaps was most likely, to some scion of the knightly family of L'Ercedeckne (now Archdeacon), who held property in Kilkenny from an early period, and bore "argent three chevrons sable." An accurate representation of this interesting slab was given in the Plate facing this page (Fig. 1), from the pencil of his friend G. V. Du Noyer, Esq.

Whilst on the subject of these Edwardian cross slabs, an interesting example of a child's tomb of the period might be noticed. The diminutive slab here engraved was, Mr. Graves said, discovered by Mr. Du Noyer and himself in the spring of 1864, built into a loose wall in the dilapidated nave of the Priory Church. This was only three feet long, and devoid of inscription.

Four of the ancient monumental remains had now been noticed. There remained but one more, and that was, so far as his (Mr. Graves's) experience in such matters extended, unique. It consisted of an immense slab of Kilkenny marble, measuring six feet by four, and of considerable thickness. The surface of the stone was completely devoid of ornament or inscription; but at one end, boldly carved in very high relief, and placed side by side, were two human heads, a male and female. There was so much individuality in the expression of these heads (see the engraving after Mr. Du Noyer's drawing, Fig. 2 in Plate) that it might not be going too far to say that they were portraits—perhaps of some well-to-do burgher of Kells and his dame. The lady had her hair arranged in massive rolls at each side of the face, and confined by a band across the forehead. The hair of the male head fell in wavy locks over the ears, mingling with the flowing beard, and only cut short across the brows. In both cases the peculiarities of hair-arrangement served to assign this very interesting monument to the time of the First Edward, or not long after that period. The labour of reducing the remainder of so large a slab so as to give a relief of nearly four inches to the heads, must have been considerable.

Mr. A. G. Geoghegan forwarded the following paper, accompanied by well-executed photographs of the antiques therein described:—



"The gold ornament, of which I send a photograph of the size of the original, was found some weeks past by a peasant, in the sands of the River Roe, in the county of Londonderry, and was sold to Mr. Minnece, a respectable silversmith in this city. Mr. Minnece disposed of it to Mr. Reid, a Member of your Society, who has kindly allowed me to have it photographed.

"It is of pure gold, weighing 1 oz. 8 dwts. and 12 grains. An exact fac-simile will be found engraved in Vallancey's 'Collectanea,' and also in Sir William Wilde's Catalogue of the Royal Irish Academy (Gold Articles, p. 65). It will be observed that the connecting bow or handle is decorated with longitudinal groovings. These, as Sir William has pointed out, add a special lustre to the metal. It would also appear that this style of ornamenting was generally incised on these articles.

"As to their original use there is considerable difference among our antiquarian authorities, Sir William Betham upholding that they were a species of ring money, while Pococke asserts that they were made to fasten cloaks or other loose garments. This theory Sir William Wilde has adopted, and in his valuable 'Catalogue' has given a woodcut, showing the method by which he supposes these articles were employed as studs or fasteners between the button-holes of the dress. Now, although I hold the antiquarian opinions of Sir William Wilde in great respect, I must confess that in this instance they have failed to convince me. In the first place, these ornaments do not appear adapted for their assigned purpose. Would not two circular discs, connected by a small chain, as in the case of the wrist studs worn by our ancestors, be more suitable than a solid bar of gold, whose very form suggests that it was made to support some pendant article? In the second place, is there any evidence to support the assertion that button-holes were ever inserted in the ample cloaks and loose tunics of the ancient Irish? Would not the almost universal employment of fibulæ, brooches, pins, and skewers, as garment-fasteners, incline us to a contrary opinion? Finally, although a row of those studs, as Sir William remarks, would form a very beautiful decoration to the vest or tunic, I have great doubts that they would be a convenient one. The circular discs could not be easily removed out of the button-holes, and their edges must eventually wear or tear the cloth of the garment. My opinion is, that these circular discs were inserted in either leather belts, or in some leathern article of horse gear—the leather, being stitched over the plates, would enable the bar to support either straps, chains, or hooks attached to the scabbard of a sword, or any other ornamental pendants. I should be glad, however, to learn the opinions of some Members of the Society better qualified than I am on the subject.

"Photograph No. 2, is a silver fibula, which I procured from a watchmaker in Omagh, county of Tyrone, who had it from a pedlar, who stated that it was dug up in the neighbourhood. As I am of opinion that it is in the power of every Irishman, no matter how humble his position, to do something towards creating a taste for our national antiquities, on procuring the brooch, I brought it to Mr. Williams, one of our most respectable silversmiths, and asked him could he make fac-similes of it. He replied, that at all event he would try and do so. I am happy to say that he has perfectly succeeded, and that the fibula he has made is an exact

counterpart of the original, and is very handsome. The acus is designed from the bronze Dunbel pin engraved in the "Journal" of your Society.

"It will be readily seen from the photograph that the fibula is essentially Irish in its character,—the bow terminating in two serpent heads, with extended jaws. The interlaced knots at each corner, the raised circular bosses, with radiating lines, all belong to the mystical school of Western art; and I feel no ordinary pleasure in being the means of saving this interesting relic from being broken up as old metal.

Mr. Graves said that the brooch was particularly interesting, as carrying down the Celtic style of ornament to a late epoch. It was evident from the foliated ornaments at the angles, near the flattened penannular ends of the ring, that this brooch must be assigned to the mediæval period. It had probably been manufactured in some Northern district, where English art had not penetrated. Its character was very similar to the metal work of the Celtic race of the Scottish Highlands, amongst whom the fashion prevailed to the present day.

The following paper was submitted to the Members:—

## TOPOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE COUNTY OF KILKENNY.

BY MR. JOHN HOGAN.

(Continued from Vol. IV., New Series, page 267).

IRELAND in remote times was celebrated for its primæval forests, and, though now so denuded, was nearly covered with trees, where their growth was not forbidden by the nature of the soil or the breezes of the sea<sup>1</sup>. The cutting down of those ancient woods is duly chronicled as a deed of fame in the Irish Annals, whence may be inferred its importance to social progress; and as the land first cleared and converted into fields would necessarily be the fertile plains, protected by mountain ridges and irrigated by mountain streamlets, so in every part of Ireland the low and sheltered districts, enclosed by mountain boundaries, are the first scenes of historic life, many of them preserving to the present day, as their pro-

<sup>1</sup> "Ireland was called Inis Fíodhbhadh, the Woody Isle, because it abounded with woods." "Ogygia," Pars I., p. 27; Keating's "History of Ireland," vol. 1, p. 63, Duffy's edition, 1844. See

also a highly interesting and beautifully written paper on the "Woods and Fastnesses of Ancient Leinster," by H. F. Hore, Esq., "Journal," vol. i., p. 229, *et seq.*, new series.